(b) if so, whether all the States have been directed to implement usage of high-tech number plates for vehicles;

(c) if so, the details of States which have started implementing the proposal;

(d) the details of States which have opposed this move; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Rule 50 of Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 has been amended to introduce high security registration plates. These plates have certain security features which would make removal, tampering or counterfeiting of such plates difficult. The objective underlying the introduction of high security registration plates is to enhance the security of vehicles thus minimising the menace of stolen vehicles being used in criminal activities.

(b) The responsibility to implement the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Rules made thereunder rests with the States. Hence separate direction to the States for implementation of the scheme is not necessary.

(c) As per information available, none of the States/U.Ts. having implemented the scheme, as on date.

(d) and (e) Some of the States had asked for postponement of the date of implementation of high security registration plates in respect of newly registered vehicles from 31st May, 2005. It has already been clarified to all the States/U.Ts that no change in the date of introduction of high security registration plates is envisaged.

Improvement along NH-5

1238. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Road Safety Forum had demanded certain improvements and changes along the NH-5 in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) to what extent has the NHAI been responsive and prompt in matter of addressing such suggestions;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a delayed response to public demands by NHAI; and

(d) the steps that are proposed to promptly address and remove the pending grievances of that area raised by the Road Safety Forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NHAI has always been responsive and prompt in welcoming constructive suggestions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The suggestions of the Road Safety Forum have been considered and the feasible proposals have already been implemented. This has been communicated to the organization.

Deformities on NH-5

1239. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Human Right Commission has issued a notice in 1993 to the NHAI with regard to certain construction deformities on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) to what extent have the demands have met to meet the needs of local people and enhance road safety;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the NHAI had agreed to pedestrian over bridge at certain points;

(d) if so, the criteria that would be followed in constructing such pedestrian over bridges as demanded by the petitioners; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Highways Authority of India was not operation in 1993. However, the National human Rights Commission has forwarded a representation on 04.06.2003 regarding Tanuku bypass on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh. Certain improvement works such as junction improvement, crash barriers etc. proposed in the representation have been done.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The pedestrian over bridge would be constructed as per provision of IRC 103-1988 (Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities) and in accordance with the 'Manual for Safety in Road Design' of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.